GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:290
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2007
POOR QUALITY OF IMPORTED WHEAT
Bhakta Shri Manoranjan;Vijay Krishna Shri

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received regarding the poor quality of imported wheat being distributed through Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(c) whether any Committee has been set up to monitor the Public Distribution System ;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it has been asked to submit its report;

(e) whether any report has been prepared regarding the quality of imported wheat particularly from America; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. Complaints have been received regarding poor quality of imported wheat being distributed through Public Distribution System. The complaints have been mostly due to the preference for white wheat, whereas imported wheat is mostly red wheat. The complaints received were sent to FCI for investigation/taking necessary action to ensure that only good quality foodgrains are issued for distribution under PDS.

(c)&(d): A Central Vigilance Committee has been set up by the Supreme Court under the Chairmanship of Mr. Justice D.P.Wadhwa, retired Judge of Supreme Court to look into the following aspects:
(i) The mode of appointment of the dealers.
(ii) The ideal commission or the rates payable to the dealers, and
(iii) Modalities as to how the Committees already in place, can function better.
(iv) Modes as to how there can be transparency in allotment of the food stock to be sold at the shops.

This committee is likely to submit its report by the end of August, 2007.

Besides, a Committee to review different aspects of Public Distribution System has been set up by the Government under the Chairmanship of Principal Commissioner, Civil Supplies, Tamil Nadu. This Committee is likely to submit its report shortly.

(e): No, Sir.

(f): Does not arise.